



ANCIENT BURIALS AT ST MARGARET'S

The Canterbury Archaeological Trust has just completed excavations, ahead of new building work, on land at Bay Hill, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe. The site lies on the summit of a chalk ridge, overlooking the English Channel, near Dover. Very particular interest attached to the site from the outset because a substantial Bronze Age round barrow had once occupied

part of the plot. In 1920 this barrow was partially levelled to make way for a new tennis court in the garden of Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, a famous actor of the day. During the construction of the tennis court, the workmen discovered six extended inhumation burials, fairly certainly of Anglo-Saxon date, together with an earlier crouched burial, most probably

associated with the original barrow. Excavations in May and June 2004 showed that other remains still survived.

No traces of the prehistoric barrow mound remained but almost the complete eastern half of the barrow's enclosing ring-ditch was located. This is estimated to have been about 22 metres in diameter.

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General view of the site looking towards the sea.

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LIBRARY NOTES

Library Volunteers have completed work on some 200 of the Hussey files of genealogical information on Kentish families, and each file now has a list of contents, to assist the researcher. A start is being made on the Hussey files on Kentish locations with particular reference to families associated with the location. We hope that work on these files will be completed before the end of the year, and appropriate reference to them will then be posted on *kentarchaeology.ac* website. Addition to the website of the index of the Gordon Ward files on Kentish locations proceeds and has reached letter L. The use of the website facility for the publication of articles on Kent history and archaeology is increasing, and in future the site is to be used by the KAS Publications Committee for the publication, where appropriate, of articles and books sponsored by the Committee. The website itself is about to undergo a make-over, partly in order to be able to manage and accommodate with greater ease its increasing use.

For the History and Archaeology Show on June 5, the Library housed displays by KAS Committees on their work — Publications, Education, Field Works, Place Names and Library Committees. The Library Committee, a selection of rare books on Kent, and journals from other regional and national history and archaeology societies were exhibited, together with a montage of visual images of Kentish buildings and locations from our extensive collection. The displays were well appreciated by the visitors, and the Publications stall in particular was well favoured in its sale of KAS publications.

NEW ACQUISITIONS APRIL-JUNE 2004

Baden Württemberg; Materiel Hefte für Archaeologie No. 65 (2004).
Bygone Kent. Vol.25 Nos. 4, 5, and 6.
Orpington Field Club Annual Report 2003.
Greater London Archaeology Quarterly Review March 2004.
Bulletin Archaeologique Liegoise CXI 2000 (2002).
Zuidoost Vlaanderen Bijdragen VIII (2002).
Place Names of Shropshire P.4.
Northamptonshire Archaeology Vol. 30 (2002).
Whitstable; History at the Horsebridge. (Geoffrey Pike)
Video; The Beauty of the East Kent Countryside and its Churches. (Brian Maxted).
Bonner Jahrbuch Band 200 (2003)
Records of Buckinghamshire Vol. 24 (2004)
Bede Clerks Roll Vol. 39, 1 and 2.
Derbyshire Archaeological Journal Vol. 124 (2004).
Story of Wye Crown.
Archaeometry Vol.46 P.2.
History of the Church of St. Michael and All Saints, Throley. (John Owen.).

FROM THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE JOHN BUTCHER

We are most grateful to Mrs. Mary Butcher for donating to the KAS library the following books and pamphlets from the library of her late husband, Mr. John Butcher, a valued member of KAS for many years and a volunteer in the KAS library, assisting in the indexing of Visual Records.

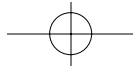
- Shell book of Cottages. (Richard Ford.)
- A Thousand years of the English Parish. (Anthea Jones).
- Maidstone Official Charter Brochure.
- Archbishops Palace Heritage Centre Maidstone.
- Village Records. (John West).
- The Parish Chest. (W.E.Tate).
- Tracing the History of Villages. (Trevor Yorke).
- The Voices of Morebath. (Eamon Duffy).
- Field Work in Local History. (W.G.Hoskins).
- Life in Kent at the turn of the Century. (Michael Winstanley).
- Geology of the Country Round Maidstone. (HMSO).
- The Wealden District. (HMSO Regional Geography).
- Rural Rides. (William Cobbett).
- The Making Of Charles Dickens. (Christopher Hibbert).
- Maidstone and Chatham Tramways. (R.J.Harley).
- The Churchyard Handbook.
- Iron Industry of the Weald. (Henry Cleare and David Crossland).
- Hops and Hop Picking. (Richard Filmer).
- The Encircling Hop. History of Hops and Brewing. (Margaret Lawrence).
- Yalding Manor Record 1334-6.
- Yalding.
- Marden. A Wealden Village.
- History of Chart Sutton.
- History of Bearsted and Thurnham.
- History of the Mote Cricket Club.
- Carshalton. From Medieval Manor to London Suburb. (T. Osborn).
- Mid Victorian Tonbridge. (C.W.Chalklin).
- Maidstone to Ashford Railway. 1870-1884.
- Richborough and Reculver. (E.H. 1987).
- Maidstone Guide. 5th Edition.
- Maidstone Grammar School.
- Boxley. Story of an English Parish.

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THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP OF SITTINGBOURNE

Sittingbourne has a new local history society, 'The Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne'. The Group was inaugurated following the interest generated by the decision to demolish the Plough public house in East Street. It was noticed from public reaction that a renewed interest was being taken in the town's heritage.

Membership fee will be £15

per annum for a single member and £20 for a family. For this, members will receive a monthly newsletter (the first of which has just appeared), have access to exclusive courses offered at reduced costs, four lectures and eight social evenings per year, family-orientated events, organised field trips and opportunities to assist in larger scale research projects.

The Group will embrace all

levels of research and its members will be encouraged to get actively involved in the Groups' activities. The Group does not portray itself purely as a research organization but as a rescue organisation as well, to help preserve the town's heritage.

For further information and details please contact Alan Abbey on the Group's dedicated phone line, 01795 553608.

John Clancy

THE ALLEN GROVE LOCAL HISTORY FUND

The Allen Grove Local History Fund has made four grants this year, three to local societies and one to an individual.

The individual was Mrs Kate Kersey for research for a book on the communities of the villages of Bearsted and Thurnham. Hadlow Historical Society also received a grant for a

book which will be on a 1481 survey of the Manor of Hadlow. Goudhurst and Kilndown Local History Society's grant was to buy materials for storage of documents in its archive and Shoreham and District Historical Society received its grant for oral history research into the village in the Second World War. The total awarded was £950.

The next grants will be made in about June next year. Application forms for grants can be obtained from the Hon. General Secretary and the applications must reach him by 31st March. The trustees are considering commissioning a book on the history of local history societies and details of this are in a separate note on page 8.

TRAIN STOPS FOR KAS MEMBERS

KAS member Susan Pittman recently came across this charming piece of information. She writes:

"There was a whole large page

account of the KAS AGM held at Eynsford in the Chronicle and District Times of 3 August 1909 (I think this is the Dartford Chronicle, but this is not written at the top of the page). The article contained some lovely pen and ink drawings. Towards the end of the account my attention was caught by the following: 'The 5.50 express was specially stopped at Eynsford for the conveyance of the party to Maidstone, where the annual dinner of the Society was held at the Star Hotel in the evening, under the presidency of Lord Northbourne.'

Some of the members, and a large section of the party, including Lord Northbourne, and several members of the Council, were two hours late in arriving'.

I can't think that the train would stop for a group of KAS Members today!"

Susan Pittman



EYNSFORD FARM CHURCH



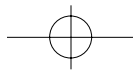
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Lectures, Conferences, Courses and Events

KAS EVENTS

Churches Committee Outing Saturday 18 September

You are invited to visit the two churches of Barfreston and Womenswold. We meet at Barfreston at 1.45 for 2pm. Tour £2 (£1 for students), £1 for tea (at Womenswold). Please return the enclosed booking form by 11 September or phone 01622 871945.

New Perspectives on Four Kent Towns Saturday 16 October at Charing Barn, beside Charing parish Church. 10.30am for 11am start.

This event replaces the traditional KAS 3 short excursions. Four expert speakers will contribute:
Keith Parfitt ~ Early Dover
Sarah Pearson ~ Faversham and Sandwich
Ken McGoverin ~ The History and Industrial Archaeology of Northfleet
Liz Finn ~ An Outline History of Maidstone
Cost £5.00 per person. Morning coffee and afternoon tea are included in the price; lunch can be obtained in Charing or a packed lunch eaten in the Barn. Further enquiries to the Hon. Excursions Secretary, Joy Saynor, tel: 01959 522713 or email: saynor.shoreham@amservice.com. To book please return the booking form within this Newsletter.

KAS Christmas Lunch Saturday 27 November at the Hall of Wye College. Details and booking form in the Autumn issue.

OTHER EVENTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

CONFERENCES

Council for Kentish Archaeology Celebrating 40 years of Archaeological Discoveries in Kent on Saturday 6 November, 2-5.30pm Canterbury Christ Church University College

Illustrated talks:
The Discovery of the Roman Religious Town at Springhead Victor Smith
Excavating the Roman Forts at Dover and Reculver Brian Philp
Presentation workshops with finds and plans, led by: Orpington & District Archaeological Society, Springhead Excavation Group, Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group, Upchurch Archaeological Research Group, Dover Archaeological Group, Bromley and West Kent Archaeological Group.
Tickets £4, available from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP. Cheques payable to CKA. Further information available on www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk, or from Conference Organiser, Ruth Plummer tel: 0208 7777872 email: davru58-cka@yahoo.co.uk

COURSES

Study for a Certificate in Archaeology!

If you are interested in archaeology deepen your knowledge and understanding of the subject through study on the University of Kent's well-established Certificate in Archaeology.

Courses include an introduction to archaeological method, prehistoric Britain, Roman Britain and Ancient Egypt. There are places available on the Certificate at both the Canterbury Campus and the University Centre at Tonbridge, starting at the end of September 2004. The programme is taught on a part-time basis, one evening a week over two years.

No formal entry qualifications are necessary; you need demonstrate only interest, enthusiasm and aptitude.

If you complete the Certificate you can then consider progressing to a Diploma and Degree in Archaeological Studies should you wish.

Why not ask for more information?

Contact the Information and Guidance Unit, the Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NZ tel: 0800 9753777 email: info@kent.ac.uk

University of Kent/Sussex Past Training Excavations Bishopstone, East Sussex 9 August-18 Sept 2004

Following the appointment of Sussex Archaeological Society's research officer, Dr Gabor Thomas, to a lectureship at the University of Kent, the University is collaborating with Sussex Past in order to allow the completion of a long-term project at Bishopstone, Sussex, investigating village origins, as part of its programme of developing the University's involvement in field archaeology.

The second and final season of the excavation element of the project this summer will target early medieval buildings and occupation identified in the shadow of an Anglo-Saxon church in the very heart of Bishopstone.

5-day training courses run through the period of the excavation and cost £180, covering all aspects of archaeological fieldwork including: geophysics, surveying using Total Station, excavation techniques, site planning and context recording, standing building recording, finds processing, and environmental sampling.

Places limited to 10 per week. Camping facilities provided. Numerous B&Bs in the area.

It is also possible to participate as a volunteer.

For application forms write to: Alison Lawrence, Barbican House, 169 High Street, Lewes BN7 1YE tel: Mon-Thur: 01273 405730; email: castle@sussexpast.co.uk

Email application forms and a 2003 Interim Report can be accessed at: <http://www.sussexpast.co.uk>

The Sussex Archaeological Society is an IFA Registered Organisation.

LECTURES

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society 13 September

The Life of Edward Hasted Shirley Black

8 November

A Roman re-enactor Leslie Allman

Both on Monday at 8pm in the Village Hall, South Darenth.

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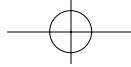
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Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society
17 September (Eynsford Hall)
The Anglo-Saxon Jutes in Kent Andrew Richardson
12 November (Farningham Hall)
A Journey along the River Cray Denise Baldwin
 Both at 8pm.

EVENTS

National Archaeology Days 2004 This annual event will be held over the weekend of **17 & 18 July**. A full listing of events can be found on the Council for British Archaeology's website at www.britarch.ac.uk.

Saturday 17 July 10.30am-4pm. National Archaeology Days event at the 'Boot Fair' field, Haine Road, Ramsgate (adjacent to the Lord of the Manor roundabout). Thanet Archaeological Society invite you to see displays, to try 'hands-on' archaeology including the chance to dig, surveying, metal detecting, finds identification.

Life & Death in Saxon Kent

Sunday 18 July 11am-4.30pm. National Archaeology Days event in the Museum of Kent Life, Cobtree, Maidstone.

North Downs Young Archaeologists' invite you to a family fun day! All children under 16 go **free**. Julian Richards (Meet the Ancestors) talking about TV archaeology and facial reconstruction, Regia Anglorum Saxon re-enactment, 'make&do' activity stalls and games, artefacts of the period for handling and food for tasting, finds ID and an exhibition of local history and archaeology groups. A day out for everyone from 3 to 103.

Finds Identification

Andrew Richardson, Finds Liaison Officer for Kent, will be in attendance to identify and record finds:

Thursday 5 August at Dartford Museum **1-4pm**

Wednesday 11 September at Cranbrook Museum (provisional, time to be finalised)

Heritage Open Days at St.Barnabas Church, Tunbridge Wells

Saturday 11 September from **9am-2pm**

Guided tours at 11am & 1pm

Sunday 12 September from **2-6pm**

Guided tours at 3 & 5pm

Monday 13 September from **10am-4pm**

Guided tour at 11am.

Exhibition of maps, photos, drawings of church & parish, plus records of St Barnabas School and Parish records. A short article on the Church can be found on page 13.

Orpington & District Archaeological Society

Open Days at the Excavations at Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst, Saturday 11 September & Sunday 12 September from 2-4.30pm

A self-guided trail around the excavations at this medieval moated manor site, showing current work as well as the remains of the foundations of the buildings associated with the Walsingham family. The island is still completely surrounded by water. Members of ODAS will be on hand to answer any questions.

Admission free. Park in St Pauls Wood Hill and take the public footpath between house numbers 12 & 14. Alternatively, limited car parking is available close to the site

by ticket only – please send a s.a.e. stating which day is required to ODAS, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood BR5 1DP.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

Sussex Archaeological Society Conference in association with the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex

Saxon Sussex: Six Centuries, on Saturday 11 September

Burial & settlement in the South Saxon kingdom: the 5th to 8th centuries Sarah Semple

Grave assemblages in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries: a reconsideration Jane Brennan

Darkness into light: construction of Saxon churches in Sussex Robert Hutchinson

Pattern & process in Anglo-Saxon settlement Judie English

New Light on Later Anglo-Saxon settlement in Sussex: Bishopstone excavations 2002-4 Gabor Thomas

Landscape & Early Medieval settlement in the western Sussex Weald Diana Chatwin

Fishing & trade in Sussex, AD900-1100 Mark Gardiner

Fee £25 per person inclusive of conference booklet, morning & afternoon tea/coffee. Lunch not included. Booking information from Lorna Gartside, Barbican House, 169 High Street, Lewes BN7 1YE tel: 01273 405737 email: members@sussexpast.co.uk or book online at www.sussexpastshop.co.uk

The Sutton Hoo Society Conference 2004 on Saturday 16 October, 9am-5.30pm

Anglo-Saxon Landscapes: Real and Imaginary
 The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook near Ipswich

Chaired by Professor Martin Carver (Uni of York) & Angela Care Evans (Brit Mus)

Speakers:

Dr Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Museums Service)

Prof. Peter Fowler (Prof Emeritus Newcastle Uni)

Dr Helena Hamerow (Uni of Oxford)

Prof David Dumville (Girton Coll, Cambridge)

John Newman (Archaeological Services Suffolk County Council)

Dr Tom Williamson (Uni of East Anglia)

Price (lunch included), Soc members £17.50, non-members £20.00, students £10.00

Contact The Treasurer, Sutton Hoo Society, 2 Meadowside, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0UD

Council for British Archaeology South-East in association with the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex.

The Cinque Ports: Archaeology and Heritage on Saturday 13 November.

Speakers include:

Keith Parfitt - Dover, Andrew Butcher - Hythe, Gill Draper & Frank Meddens - New Romney, Peter Marsden - Hastings, David Martin - Winchelsea, Helen Clarke - multi-disciplinary projects at Sandwich & Rye. Gustav Milne will provide an Introduction & Summing Up. Conference chaired by David Rudling.

Event also includes the CBA SE AGM.

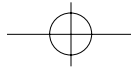
For further details or application form please send A5 s.a.e. to David Morriss, CCE, Arts E201, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, E.Sussex BN1 9QQ.

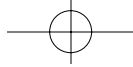
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Ouse Valley Project Symposium on Saturday 20 November 10am-5pm

Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex
The launch of a major new interdisciplinary landscape research project studying the Sussex Ouse from sources to sea.

An outline of the Sussex Ouse Research Project Prof. Peter Drewett

Changes in rural land management & farming practices in and around the Ouse Valley and their impact on the downland landscape Dr Sue Berry

Industrial archaeology of the Ouse Valley John Blackwell & Ron Martin

Iron Making in the Ouse basin Jeremy Hodgkinson

Sticky Challenge: cohesive sediment movement & accumulation in the Ouse estuary Richard Charman

Sussex wetland-rich woodlands - rebuilding a lost habitat type Dr Tony Whitbread

From bank to bank: crossing the River Ouse in (pre)history John Bleach

Making the most of memory: the Ouse Valley Oral History Project Dr Alistair Thomson

Fee (includes tea/coffee) £30, student rate £10, concession £5. Optional pre-booked lunch £7.50.

To book tel: 01273 877888 or email: cce@sussex.ac.uk or download an enrolment form from www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/news/ouse.

Heritage Open Days 10-13 September

Hundreds of properties not normally open to the public will open their doors to visitors.

Further information from Heritage Open Days Office at the Civic Trust, 259-269 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5RA

Landmark Trust Open Days

It is normally only possible to view Landmark Trust properties by paying for the associated holiday. However, properties open for visiting in the south-east in 2004 are:

14 September - Wilmington Priory, East Sussex (morning only)

31 October - Sackville House, East Grinstead, West Sussex (south side of the High Street)

Further information on www.landmarktrust.co.uk/open-day.html. For directions email: bookings@landmark-trust.co.uk or tel: 01628 825925.

EVENTS,
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'IDEAS and IDEALS'

This was a series of articles describing formative movements and ideas in the history of the church.

AN IDEAL SERIES

With Dr Yates article in the last issue of the Newsletter, our series, illustrating from Kent examples the nodal points in the evolution of the church, has come to an end. Four points of emphasis were suggested to each contributor. They were;

- o the central ideas inspiring the development
- o the relevance to our current situation
- o prominent persons involved in Kentish examples
- o Kentish examples

Each successive wave of new visions has left its visual embodiment. What some saw as the dead hand of the over-developed institution has been continually challenged by recurrent streams of fresh insight. Exciting new movements have themselves ossified into structures, leaving their imprint in buildings and patterns of behaviour. All tend to claim inspiration from, and faithfulness to, the Founder. It is almost as if the truth embodied in the faith is so large that only a few of its facets are apparent to any one approach.

Still visible are the Gothic verticality, the screened-off chancel, the images in stone and glass, the high pulpit of non-conformity, the Baptist's subterranean baptistry, the bare Quaker meeting room. They are the expressions in stone and wood of ideas once challenging and still powerful. Belief precedes building, perceptions become structures. Thus cathedral, church, chapel and mission hall still present us with ideas, invite us to make decisions - if only we can interpret what we see.

P.A.L.

Articles available for download on www.kentarchaeology.ac

Great Tottington's Sarsen Stones

The Papermakers of Snodland

The Deal Boatmen; Heroes or Villains?

A Traditional Community in Decline; The Deal Boatmen in the Nineteenth Century

Cholera and Typhoid Fever in Kent

Infancy, Polygamy and Parenting within Iron Age Kent

The Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society's Chalk Mine and the Building of the Bostall Estate

Finances and Government of Canterbury 1700-1850; An Overview

A Possible Roman Tide Mill

Paul Ashbee

Andrew Ashbee

Dr Jacqueline Bower

Dr Jacqueline Bower

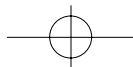
Dr C H Collins

Mike Lally

R F LeGear

Dr Frank Panton

Dr Robert Spain



THE AGGREGATES LEVY SUSTAINABILITY FUND

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) was introduced as a two year pilot scheme in 2002 to provide funds to help address the environmental costs of aggregate extraction. English Heritage, along with English Nature and the Countryside Agency, is a major distributor of the Fund on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Amongst the projects funded in 2002 were three in the Romney Marsh area, where the complex interplay between natural processes and human endeavour that influences landscape evolution are being explored. A total of around £272,000 was allocated:

Medieval Adaptation, Settlement and Economy of a Coastal Wetland: the evidence from around Lydd by University College, London, will synthesise the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence for medieval settlement, land-use and modification of the landscape, using the considerable body of data produced by developer-funded archaeological work that has been conducted in the area.

The Evolution of the Port of Rye, undertaken by the University of Durham, aims to develop a model for the evolution of Rye over the last 3000 years, showing the shifting balance between natural and human processes as agents of landscape change.

The Evolution and Landscape History of Dungeness Foreland, also by the University of Durham, seeks to assess the age and depositional history of the gravel beaches. The project has assessed a transect of boreholes drilled through the gravel deposits and a dating programme using OSL (optical stimulated luminescence) has been undertaken to determine the minimum age for deposition of the most recent gravels. Deposits overlying the gravels are being examined for plant and animal microfossils and dating evidence obtained to provide details of how the environments that developed after gravel deposition changed through time.

Also funded in Kent was the *Listening Devices at Denge* project,

where Wright Consulting Engineers Ltd received just over £90,000 to help save these three scheduled ancient monuments. Built for the acoustic detection of enemy aircraft, their reinforced concrete parabolic mirrors were redundant by the outbreak of the Second World War due to the introduction of radar. The first mirror was built in 1928 and was 20 foot tall, followed by a more advanced 30 foot mirror with listening room and finally a 200 foot acoustic wall by 1930. Gravel extraction progressively encroached upon the structures and left them all but isolated as an island within lakes formed by quarrying. The structural stability of two of the devices has been seriously affected and undercutting by wave action has undermined one end of the wall.

The project has two phases, the ALSF having provided funding for the first phase which will stabilise the lake edge around the structures and carry out essential

repairs to their concrete. Access to them will be controlled for health and safety reasons, to minimise vandalism and to avoid disturbance to resident birds (the site is also a national Nature Reserve, Special Landscape Area and SSSI amongst other designations). This will be achieved by cutting the access causeways in two places, one of the cuts having a lockable swing bridge for use in future maintenance and repairs and to allow organised visits to continue.

Phase 2 will see on-site interpretation, signage and footpath works, with EC Interreg funds secured towards this.

Information taken from the ALSF Annual Report 2002-2003. For further details of the ALSF Scheme: www.english-heritage.org.uk or contact Archaeology Commissions, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1S 2ET.

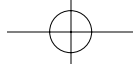
The 'Listening Ears' - the acoustic detection devices at Denge.



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Summer 2004



09513476 2 4, £2.50 40pp.

Although probably the best-documented single event in medieval history, one area of enquiry has remained obscure. What was the background of the murderers, their motivation and their eventual fate? This book is the text of a lecture given by Nicholas Vincent, then Professor of Medieval History at Christ Church University College,

Canterbury, which aimed to dispel the myths about the murderers and establish the facts. The account is embedded in the history of the period, with special reference to the anarchy of the previous reign, and includes a number of sidelights of interest - for instance, that the murder of bishops, even in the cathedral, was not uncommon in the Middle Ages. The conclusion looks afresh at the

crucial question of how far Henry II was implicated, and shows how the King's public stance changed as the reputation of the murdered archbishop rapidly grew in the early 1170's.

Available from booksellers or by post, price £3.00, from The Secretary, William Urry Memorial Lecture Fund, c/o The Chapter Library, The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE

ST. BARNABAS' TUNBRIDGE WELLS

For the past three years St. Barnabas' church, Stanley Road, Tunbridge Wells, has been the venue for an increasingly ambitious historical exhibition, organised in connection with the Heritage Open Days in September - details are given elsewhere in the Newsletter. The history of the church is a classic example of the rise of the Tractarian movement, described by Nigel Yates in the Spring edition. The parish has its origins in a small Mission Church built in 1870 in an area which was fast being developed with working class cottages, and the early years saw much controversy. The establishment of an avowedly Tractarian parish in a district dominated by the Evangelical wing of the Church of England was vigorously opposed, not least by Canon Edward Hoare, Vicar of Holy Trinity, 'the Protestant Pontiff of Tunbridge Wells'.

Despite this, the church flourished, and the present cathedral-sized building, designed by the Cutts brothers, was erected in 1887-88 at the enormous cost of £17,000. The Exhibition covers not only the history of the building



Above: St Barnabas' Church towers over the surrounding buildings.
Left: The interior is equally impressive.



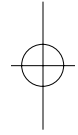
itself, its schools, clergy and people, but also the development of the area, in which the first Tunbridge Wells railway station had been built. Many industrial buildings were subsequently erected, most of which have now been demolished.

The Exhibition has attracted

considerable numbers of visitors, and as a result some interesting discoveries have come to light. One such which will be on display this year will be photographs from a scrapbook of c1900 featuring a large local employer, the Baltic Sawmills.

Geoffrey Copus

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